

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 30TH DAY OF JULY, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M. IN
BUILDING C AT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755
ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

PRESENT:	James D. Politis	-Chair
	William H. Brown	-Vice Chair
	Mary W. Biggs	-Supervisors
	Gary D. Creed	
	Matthew R. Gabriele	
	Annette S. Perkins	
	Christopher A. Tuck	
	F. Craig Meadows	-County Administrator
	L. Carol Edmonds	-Deputy County Administrator (3:00 p.m.)
	Ruth Richey	-Public Information Officer
	Judy W. Kiser	-Assistant to the County Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

INTO WORK SESSION

On a motion by William H. Brown, seconded by Matthew R. Gabriele and carried unanimously,

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby enters into Work Session for the purpose of conducting a board retreat. The vote was as follows:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
William H. Brown	None
Matthew R. Gabriele	
Mary W. Biggs	
Gary D. Creed	
Annette S. Perkins	
Christopher A. Tuck	
James D. Politis	

National Citizen Survey Results

Public Information Officer Ruth Richey presented the results of the National Citizen Survey for Montgomery County with the following power point presentation:



The National Citizen Survey™

Montgomery County, VA

Board of
Supervisors
July 30, 2012

Presentation design and The National Citizen Survey™ Logo used with permission of National Research Center, Inc., Boulder, Colorado, 2011

The National Citizen Survey™ Survey Background

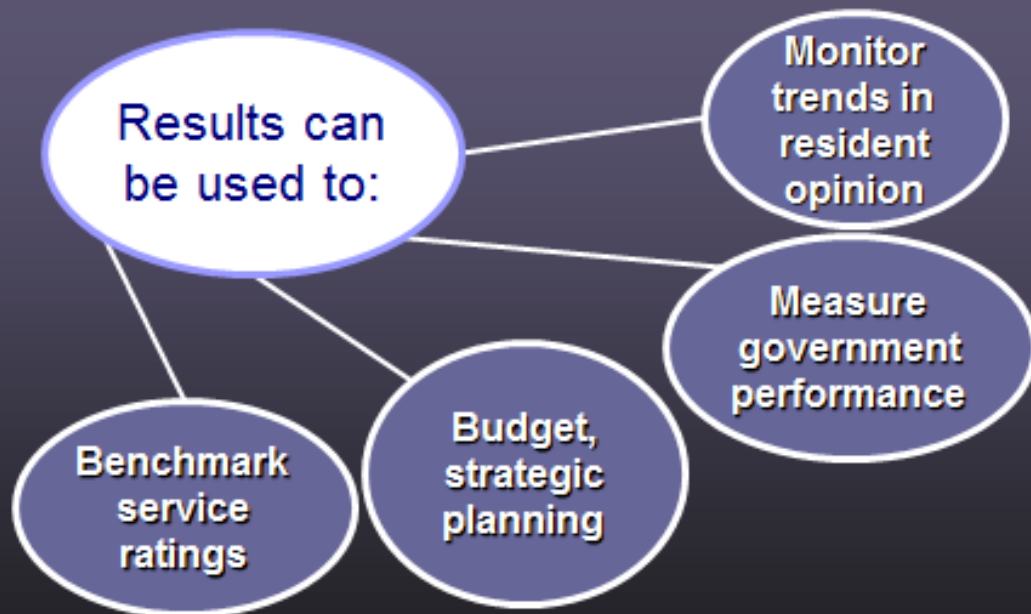


- ▶ Board of Supervisors' Vision 2020 Plan identified a citizen survey as a top priority.
 - ▲ Turnkey citizen survey service
 - ▲ Benchmark comparisons with 500+ jurisdictions in more than 40 states



Uses of Survey Results

The National Citizen Survey™



3

Study Background and Methods

The National Citizen Survey™


- ▶ 1,200 residents and households in towns and unincorporated area received survey
- ▶ +/-5% margin of error
- ▶ Data statistically weighted to reflect population

4



Key Drivers: Resident Priorities

- ▶ Key driver analysis borrowed from private sector
- ▶ Key drivers are based on relationships between ratings of each service and ratings of County services overall.
- ▶ Key drivers are services highly tied to overall ratings



Key Drivers: Resident Priorities

- ▶ Core services land at top of list when residents are asked what services are the most important
- ▶ Life and safety services are essential and should be continuously monitored and improved
- ▶ Key drivers may be useful focus areas to consider for enhancement of overall service ratings.



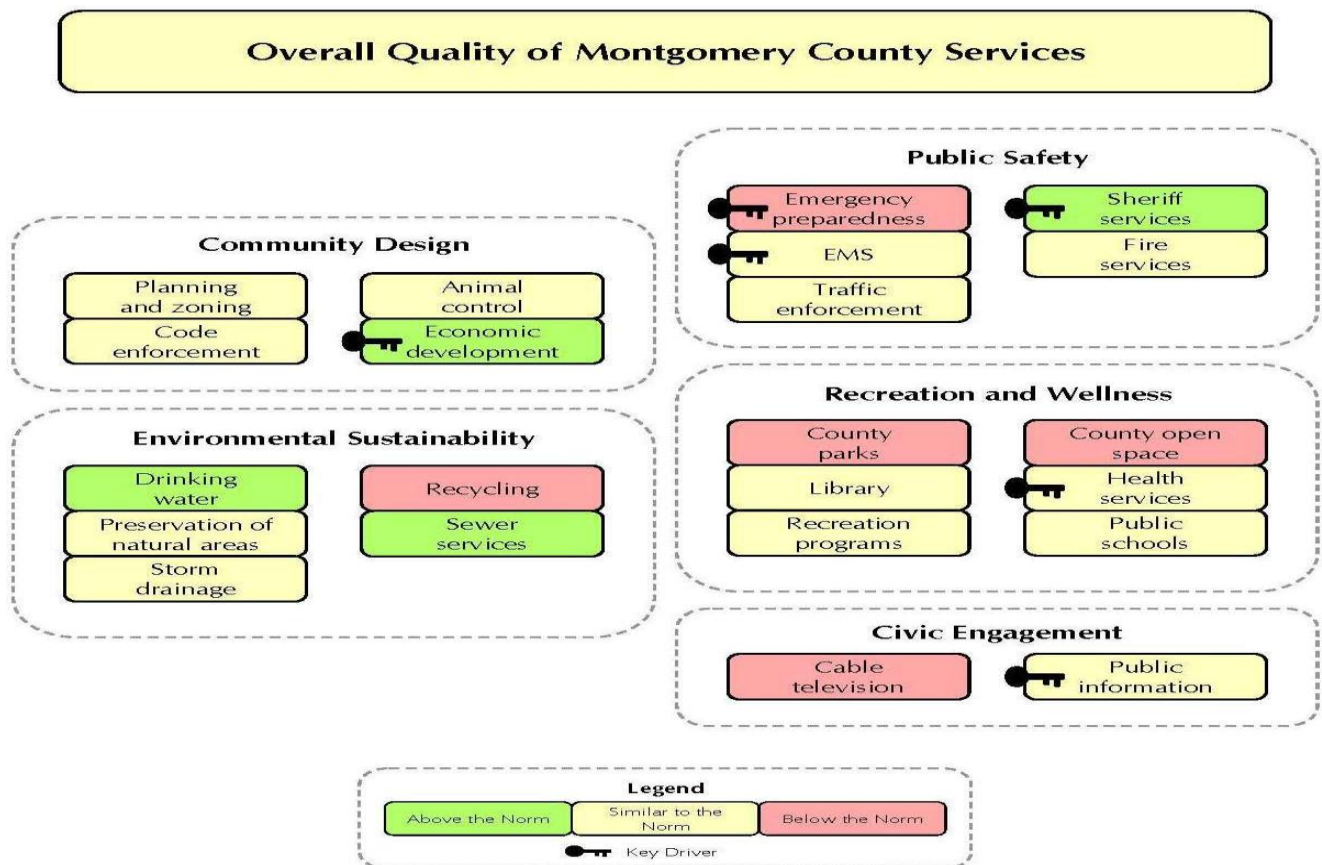
County Services' Key Drivers

- ▶ Ambulance or emergency medical services
- ▶ Economic development
- ▶ Emergency preparedness
- ▶ Health services
- ▶ Public information services
- ▶ Sheriff services



7

FIGURE 89: MONTGOMERY COUNTY ACTION CHART™




Conclusions

Quality of services compared

ABOVE

Sheriff 

Economic development 

Drinking Water


Sewer Services

9

Conclusions

Quality of services compared

Similiar


Fire/EMS 

Animal control

Planning/zoning


Traffic enforcement

Libraries

Health services 

Code enforcement

Storm drainage


Public information 

Preservation of
natural areas

Schools

Recreation programs

10



Conclusions

Quality of services compared

BELOW
Recycling
County Parks
County open spaces
Cable TV
Emergency preparedness

11



Questions?

www.montva.com

Board members had the following questions about the survey:

- Which states do not participate in the National Citizen Survey?
- When was the survey actually done, and what was going on at the time? For instance, if it was a couple of years ago when the Blacksburg High School gym roof collapsed, it could account for emergency preparedness scoring below the norm.
- Who decides what is or is not, included in the survey?
- How do we get the word out. How do we educate the public on how local government operates? What do we do and how do we do it?
- County services are all we have to offer. How do we communicate to the public the services we have to offer? How do we tweak, how do we get the word out?
- Why did emergency preparedness rank so low in the survey?

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Vision 2020 as Amended July 30, 2012

Deletions made to the Board's Vision and Mission Statement adopted in 2010 are noted by ~~strike through~~, and additions are in ***bold italic***:

Montgomery County is a cohesive, friendly, caring, ***constantly growing*** community distinguished by its vibrancy and diversity. ~~We are not a County unto ourselves; By working closely with our towns,~~ ***educational institutions, and regional partners*** ~~institutions that focus on higher and continuing education, and our citizens, we all stand strong. Our strong skilled workforce is known for its skills and intellectual capital, while deep~~ ***our community is grounded by its deep*** roots in traditional values and beautiful farmlands, mountains and green-spaces ground our community. We foster a high quality of life by offering exceptional citizen services, including educational and recreational opportunities. ~~We recognize that thriving businesses~~ ***strive to be friendly and recognize that thriving businesses*** and high tech industries are important to our community and support our prosperity. As a county government, we operate in ~~a business friendly~~ ***an ethical*** supportive and transparent manner for the good of all citizens.

Our vision focuses on the following aspirations to provide stewardship for our resources and direction for our future:

Economic Diversity: Montgomery County is the place to do business

We diversify our economy by attracting clean, high paying businesses and industry, along with helping existing businesses grow, so that we can thrive during both good economic times and recessionary downturns. ~~A~~ ***An award winning***, business-friendly environment with efficient government processes and a citizen-supported master plan for economic growth attract high technology, agriculture, tourism, retail, commerce and other industries. The Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center gives us a significant edge in attracting entrepreneurs, researchers, and innovators and to produce businesses that ~~we~~ can grow. Our airport, with corporate jet service, enhances economic development through access to world markets. There are ample opportunities for workers to acquire new skills and increase their knowledge through the public schools, higher education, and trade and vocational training, thus creating a skilled workforce to assure our competitiveness. We also recognize the importance of developers working with us to support a well-planned, viable community.

Recreation: Montgomery County is the place to have fun

We support enhanced recreational offerings that encourage wellness and a healthy lifestyle and bring families and individuals of all ages together. Our natural resources include the New River, the second oldest river in the world, which offers opportunities for kayaking, tubing, swimming and fishing. The nearby Appalachian Trail offers outdoor camping and hiking from Georgia to Maine. Residents and visitors alike enjoy ball fields, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, golf courses, tennis courts, hiking and biking trails, and dog parks. There are social activities, cultural programs, theater, special events, hobby classes, tours and excursions, athletic teams and sports camps for individuals and groups of all ages in all areas of the County. The Christiansburg Aquatic Center enhances the health and wellbeing of our citizens. Virginia Tech's nationally ranked football and other sports teams, ***along with cultured art***, give us name recognition anywhere in the United States, attracting visitors and broadening economic opportunity within the County.

County Services: Montgomery County is a quality community

We provide quality public safety, public education, water and sewer services, recreation, and library services. We are committed to building and maintaining our facilities to meet our needs

well into the future. We enable citizens to transact business at places and times convenient to citizens from all districts. We explore shared and consolidated services with our towns, Virginia Tech, and regional partners to reduce costs and improve services. Our expansive volunteer network enhances the quality of life in the County and helps us keep services affordable. Fire and rescue volunteer organizations, churches, and others whose members give freely of their time for the betterment of our community are valued partners. Our capital improvement and master plans provide the framework for all decision-making and guide the future development of government facilities and services. We continuously think in a creative way in order to diversify our revenue sources and to maintain quality services at the lowest possible cost.

Health and Safety: *Montgomery County is a safe place to live*

Our citizens enjoy a healthy, safe community with excellent medical, social, mental health, and accredited public safety services. Our well-trained professional and volunteer fire and rescue services are supported by federal, state, local and private funds. Our Sheriff's Office provides outstanding law enforcement and court services with highly trained professionals who have received state accreditation, along with state and national recognition for excellence.

Strengthened by our experiences, we are a leader in regional public safety efforts; the County has a state-of-the-art regional emergency communications system. A vibrant medical community is located around the two local hospitals, enhancing quality health care for all citizens.

Education: *Montgomery County is a great place for learning*

Our educational environment provides exceptional learning opportunities for our citizens. Coordinated efforts among ***award winning, fully accredited public schools*** ~~public~~ and private schools, New River Community College, Virginia Tech, and others enable our students to become highly successful in their chosen careers and prepare them for competitive, ever-changing job markets. Virginia Tech's reputation in engineering, the sciences, and many other fields gives the County incomparable educational choice. An osteopathic medical school and school for veterinary medicine located in our midst significantly enhance the career choices available to our citizens as well as others. Enabled by the University, the diversity of our community fosters an ability to relate to others that is an educational experience in and of itself. Lifelong learning opportunities are avidly pursued through this rich network of educational providers, making Montgomery County one of the premier educational communities in the world.

Land Use: *Montgomery County is a good steward of natural resources*

Our diverse community values the preservation of its natural beauty and resources. The citizen-developed Comprehensive Plan supports planned development, creatively strengthens the County's economy, promotes agricultural activities, and encourages land conservation. Our towns and villages create a welcoming atmosphere for business and community. Conservation easements are in place to protect the rural areas.

Citizen Engagement: *Montgomery County is a citizen friendly government*

Our government strives to be friendly with highly professional, competent, and willing staff members who are eager to help all citizens for the overall good of the County. We promote citizen involvement on boards and commissions and understanding of County governance through our website, annual reports, and other communications. Our Board of Supervisors meetings are held in accessible chambers where citizens are invited to address the Board at each meeting. Board meetings are broadcast on the government cable channel and the County website for those who cannot attend. We provide satellite offices in many parts of the County and expanded broadband to help citizens transact business virtually or in person.

Declaration of Local Emergency and Request for Federal Disaster Assistance

Following the widespread severe wind storm on June 29-30 and the heavy thunderstorms and high winds and hail that occurred the evening of June 30 and the afternoon of July 1, the Governor requested federal funds through FEMA's Public Assistance program to aid the counties affected. Montgomery County being the only county in southwest Virginia that was not included in the Governor's request, the BoS asked if our Emergency Services Coordinator could discuss this with the BoS.

The Emergency Services Coordinator explained that Montgomery County has requested funds, and while our name was not included on the list, we are eligible for the reimbursement if we meet the threshold value of \$311,000+.

It was the Board's impression that only counties and cities could apply for these funds. The ESC said that counties, cities, and towns who have dedicated ESC's can apply for the funds.

It has been reported that Congressman Morgan Griffith is looking into the reason Montgomery County was not included in the Governor's list of localities when the request was made to FEMA. If the County has not met the threshold to qualify for reimbursement, why would Congressman Griffith pursue this matter?

The Emergency Services Coordinator will follow up on the Board's questions and report back to the County Administrator.

Develop Set of Board Priorities for 2012-2014

Following discussion and review of the Two-Year Priorities for 2010-2012, the Board agreed on the Two-Year Priorities for 2012-2014 as follows:



Montgomery County Board Two-Year Priorities for 2012-2014

The following 2-year Priorities were identified by Board Members on July 30, 2012 as the most important to pursue to achieve the Board's Vision. The County Management Team will use these to develop a Work Plan with goals, action steps, and timetables.

Note: Items are numbered for reference only & do not indicate priority.

1	Sale surplus properties - return to tax roles
2	Identify capital needs for next 10 years
3	Bring joinder issue to closure
4	Identify future industrial sites
5	Continue to address animal shelter issues
6	Continue to develop relationships with other elected bodies/meet more frequently
7	Develop more ball fields/recreation facilities
8	Report back to full Board from the Liaison meetings

9	Bipartisan support for liquor by the drink (LBD) for the I-81 exits
10	Proceed with renovation of old courthouse for public safety building
11	Develop new strategies for outreach/input from citizens on budget/other issues
12	Community meetings in each district on an annual basis
13	Continue with technology improvements for County services
14	Improve the relationship with the School Board
15	Do a better job of scheduling meetings for BoS/joint meetings (5 th Mondays)
16	Explore greater cooperation/partnerships with Roanoke County/Roanoke City

Review Board's Operating Guidelines Adopted in 2010

Following review of the Board's Operating Guidelines adopted in 2010, no changes were made to the Guidelines.

Topics that Staff Needs Board Direction on Before Moving Ahead

Old Prices Fork Elementary School The community group "Northwest Montgomery Village Center Foundation" that made a presentation to the BoS in 2010 on their plans for transforming the Prices Fork Elementary School into a multi-use village center, will be coming back to the Board about this property. The County Administrator asked for guidance on how to respond to inquiries about the property.

Suggestions from the Board included giving notice to the community group when the School Board is ready to declare the property surplus and turn it over to the County and give them the first option to purchase. If they don't come up with the money, then move on and offer it for public sale. It was also recommended that the property be appraised for value if it is used for what the community group wants to use it for, and an appraised value if it is to be used for something else.

Harvey Lee Price Park (Friends of the Rivers of Virginia request for tax exempt status) In 2010 Ms. Anne Yates offered to donate 38.67 acres of land to Montgomery County for a park to be named the Harvey Lee Price Park. The property is located on Stroubles Creek Road behind the Montgomery Farms subdivision. The parcel is located in proximity to a 1.132 acre parcel owned by Virginia Tech and a smaller parcel owned by the Virginia Tech Foundation, and lies in the path of the proposed South Main connector road. The Board of Supervisors reviewed the potential donation and decided not to accept the parcel. The property was then donated to FORVA who now seeks tax exemption.

FORVA's application states that this property would be given to the County for a park with the intent that it be named the Harvey Lee Price Park with a monument of Mr. Price to be erected at the park. The application states that should the County not accept the property that a non-profit organization may develop a public park or the property may be given to the Virginia Tech Foundation. The BoS previously declined the offer of this property for a park.

On June 11, 2012 the BoS had a work session to discuss the request. Staff recommended that the property remain on the tax rolls until a formal plan is developed and presented regarding the future development of the site. Supervisor Brown pointed out that Montgomery County does not have adequate staff to provide the necessary maintenance for a public park, and that an adjoining property owner has already demanded the installation of a fence if the property is developed into

a park. He recommended that the BoS reconsider the tax exemption once the group has developed a public park on the site.

There was discussion about the number of cars per day that would be parking there, and if there were any plans to address the parking issue. Chair Politis asked that this matter be listed on the Board's agenda for a work session in September 2012 and that the Chairman of the FORVA, Bill Tanger, be invited to attend. It was the consensus of the BoS that Chair Politis meet with FORVA representatives prior to a work session.

OUT OF WORK SESSION

On a motion by Mary W. Biggs, seconded by Annette S. Perkins and carried unanimously,

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors ends their Work Session to return to Regular Session. The vote was as follows:

AYE

Mary W. Biggs
Annette S. Perkins
William H. Brown
Gary D. Creed
Matthew R. Gabriele
Christopher A. Tuck
James D. Politis

NAY

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Matthew R. Gabriele, seconded by William H. Brown and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned to August 13, 2012. The vote was as follows:

AYE

Matthew R. Gabriele
Gary D. Creed
William H. Brown
Mary W. Biggs
Annette S. Perkins
Christopher A. Tuck
James D. Politis

NAY

None

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ ATTEST: _____
James D. Politis F. Craig Meadows
Chair County Administrator